



GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION ON COMMUNITY SERVICE NEWSLETTER

OFFICE OF LT. GOVERNOR BARBARA O'BRIEN

VOLUME VI

SPRING 2009

ISSUE I

Upcoming Dates

Commission Meeting
Friday, February 13
Johnson and Wales

President's Day
Monday, February 16
(Office Closed)

**Commission Meeting
(Conference Call)**
Friday, March 13

**Program Manager's
Institute**
March 23-24
Westin Westminster

Commission Meeting
Friday, April 10
Mile High United Way

Capitol Blood Drive
Friday, April 30
State Capitol

**Commission Meeting
(Conference Call)**
Friday, May 8

AmeriCorps Week
May 9 – 16, 2008
Statewide

Colorado Ramps Up for AmeriCorps Week

AmeriCorps members, alumni, and friends are getting an early start on AmeriCorps Week 2009. AmeriCorps Week is scheduled from May 9-16.

This will be the third annual week dedicated to shine a spotlight on the work of AmeriCorps Members, and to motivate more Americans to serve their communities.

This year's AmeriCorps Week is filling up with planned events. As a part of the festivities, the Governor's Commission on Community Service will present the Second Annual Governor's Service Awards. Among these honors, the *Colorado AmeriCorps Member Achievement Award* is given to current AmeriCorps members who have demonstrated tremendous leadership and who have gone beyond the call of duty to create positive change in Colorado communities. The *Still Getting Things Done Award* is given to select Colorado AmeriCorps Alums in recognition of their exceptional impact beyond their term of service. The *Spirit of AmeriCorps Award* honors an individual, business and/or organization that exemplifies the "spirit" of AmeriCorps by acting on principles similar to those in the AmeriCorps Pledge. The Commission will honor these award recipients at a special "AmeriCorps Night at the Rockies, Colorado Rockies baseball game.

Along with the GCCS, the AmeriCorps Alumni Association is preparing to host their Life After AmeriCorps or "LAFTA" Conference during this special week. This year, they will combine their efforts and partner with the Colorado AmeriCorps*NCCC membership.



AmeriCorps Members from across Colorado joined together for a service project at Red Rocks during last year's AmeriCorps Week.



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WWW.COLORADO.GOV/GCCS



For more information on planned events and service opportunities in Colorado, visit the Commission website at www.colorado.gov/gccs. To become involved in planning an event, please contact Jovan Melton at 303.866.6426, or jovan.melton@state.co.us.



BILL RITTER JR.
GOVERNOR



BARBARA O'BRIEN
LT. GOVERNOR

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PROGRAM OFFICER

JANET MICKISH, PHD
COMMUNITY & VOLUNTEER
COORDINATOR

JOVAN MELTON
PROGRAM ASSISTANT

Thousands Come Together for the Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service

Colorado residents celebrated another great Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday by serving the needs of Colorado communities. The 2009 Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service, held on January 19th, saw over two dozen service projects and thousands of participants.

In the Denver metro area, Lt. Gov. Barbara O'Brien spoke and marched with state and community leaders in the annual MLK Jr. Parade. AmeriCorps Members helped marshal thousands from the Martin Luther King Jr. Statue in City Park, to downtown's Civic Center Park.



Lt. Governor Barbara O'Brien with Colorado AmeriCorps Members that served as MLK Jr. Parade Marshals



Many youth joined in on activities for the MLK Jr. Day of Service

In the Denver metro area, Kaiser Permanente sponsored several events including a Community Health Fair at Manual High School and a Youth Day at the Denver Broncos Boys and Girls Club. Fort Lewis College held a community march/parade and civil rights forum. In Estes Park, Eagle Rock School hosted the Estes Earth Fest which promotes and focuses on conservation and environmental care. The Day of Service proved as a great opportunity to help many.

Celebrating the 11th Colorado Cares Day

The successful MLK Jr. Day of Service has prompted early participant interest in this year's Colorado Cares Day. In response, the Governor's Commission on Community Service is getting an early start on making the 2009 Colorado Cares Day the biggest in years. Colorado Cares Day will be July 25, 2009.

Colorado Cares Day is a statewide day of service dedicated to giving back to Colorado communities in honor of Colorado's statehood day on August 1st.

Projects will include many different areas of interest in counties and cities throughout the Front Range and Mountain communities. For more information on registering for the day, visit the commission's website at www.colorado.gov/gccs.

The 11th Annual
COLORADO CARES DAY
A little Bit of Time Makes a BIG Difference!
Saturday, July 25, 2009

Program Manager's Institute Conference

The Governor's Commission on Community service is preparing for the annual Program Manager's Institute. The PMI will be held on March 23-24 at The Westin Westminster.

This is a chance for AmeriCorps*State program managers from across Colorado to receive training on a variety of subjects. These workshops range from Corp member retention, leadership and supervision, budgeting, disability education and inclusion, and conflict resolution.

The goal of the conference is to ensure that current and potential programs are not only in compliance with the newest AmeriCorps standards, but are efficiently and effectively providing AmeriCorps members with the support they need to better serve Colorado communities.



For more information on the PMI Conference, contact Terri Jutzi at 303.866.2572.

2009 AmeriCorps State Programs

- CARENET
Commerce City, CO
720.322.8113
- Colorado HIPPIY AmeriCorps
Statewide
303.860.6000
- Colorado Youth Corps Assoc.
Statewide
303.863.0600
- Community Building Partnerships
for Youth in Transition
Denver, CO
720.944.1006
- Healthy Lifestyles Mentoring,
Steamboat Springs, CO
970.879.2135
- Mesa State College AmeriCorps Program
Grand Junction, CO
970.248.1874
- Mile High Youth Corps
Statewide
303.433.1206
- Saguache United Methodist
Church AmeriCorps Program
Center, CO
719.256.4662
- Weld County Youth Conservation Corps
Greeley, CO
970.353.8300, Ext. 3400

State Officials Give at the Capitol Blood Drive

The Governor's Commission on Community Service joined with Bonfils Blood Center, the Offices of the Governor Bill Ritter Jr., Lt. Governor Barbara O'Brien, Senator Betty Boyd, Senator Bill Cadman, Representative Anne McGihon, and Representative Spencer Swalm to host the Capitol Blood Drive. The Drive was held on February 3, 2009 outside of the West Steps of the State Capitol.

This life-saving partnership allowed Bonfils to save and enhance the lives of patients by distributing blood products to more than 200 Colorado hospitals and healthcare facilities. The famous Bonfils Blood mobile was able to collect 27 units which can help up to 81 patients. Of the donors, nine people gave blood for the first time in their lives. By recruiting first-time donors, the drive helped expand the Bonfils family of nearly 120,000 blood donors that save lives through blood donation.

"Giving Blood takes so little of our time and effort, but it can literally save a life," said Lt. Gov. O'Brien. "In the spirit of community service, taking time out of our day to make a life-saving donation is so important."

Blood donations tend to decline in the winter months due to adverse road conditions and the cold and flu season, making it all more important for healthy individuals to support patients in need by giving blood. Blood donation is one of the easiest ways to volunteer. With a single blood donation, individuals can save or enhance the lives of up to three patients.

The next Capitol Blood Drive will be Thursday, April 30, 2009. For more information please contact the GCCS at 303.866.6426.



Abby Peters, Bonfils Blood Technician prepares GCCS Senior Program Officer Mark Skinner to give blood.

Commissioner's Spotlight



Walt Beckert Jr. was appointed as the Labor representative to the Commission. Having worked with youth in three countries and numerous cities, Walt has seen youth overcome poverty to gain an education and prepare them for a brighter future. From his own experience, Walt understands the struggles of poverty. As a single parent, homelessness for him and his son was never more than one paycheck away for far too long. Walt holds a Masters in Bilingual Education, Curriculum Development and Administration from CU. He served in the Peace Corps where he worked in Ecuador on bilingual education and curriculum development. He is currently an AFL-CIO Colorado executive board member. In Walt's current job with the Denver Safe City Office, he is working to prevent violence by and against youth. This has allowed him to witness families that have fallen on hard times, whether by drugs, illness, or victimization. These experiences give him a unique perspective in helping youth and are the motivating factor in his community service interests.



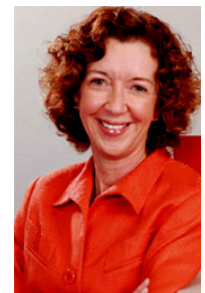
Tom Rapp was appointed as the National Service Program representative to the Commission. Tom serves as the Director of the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) in Adams/Arapahoe Counties at The Senior Hub, Inc. RSVP is a national Senior Corps program. Tom has an extensive background in education. He received his Bachelor of Science from The University of Denver and his Masters in Educational Administration from the University of Northern Colorado. He worked as a teacher and school administrator for the Adams 12 School District. Tom joined the Commission in 2006. He is a coordinator for the Adams County Community Garden CO-OP, a member of the Aurora Healthy Senior Aging Project, and Founder/Director of the Thornton Community of Caring Project. Tom have also served with numerous other boards and organizations that focus on volunteerism, recreation and education.

A Special Word From the Chair

I am excited to share with you the news that the Governor's Commission on Community Service has a new Vice Chair in fellow Commissioner Lindsay Morgan Tracy.

I am very much looking forward to serving with Lindsay. She has an extensive background in community service. Along with her work on the commission, Lindsay is a board member of the Denver Office of Strategic Partnerships, the Foundation for the Prevention of School Violence, Denver Police Department's Top Cop organization and the national organization, America's Service Commissions.

This change comes after some thrilling news from our former Vice Chair, Garth Schaefer. Garth has taken a position to help the people of Nepal with an international dentistry program. The entire Commission and Staff are more than enthusiastic for Garth as he takes on this new adventure. Garth has dedicated his life to helping others. He served as an AmeriCorps*VISTA, a Learn and Serve member, and on the Commission for many years. As Vice Chair, his assistance was invaluable and he will be sadly missed. Good luck Garth!



Christine Benero
Chair, Governor's Commission on Community Service

From the Desk of the Executive Director

The Governor's Commission on Community Service is embarking on a new outreach plan to expand information about volunteer service opportunities open to Colorado job seekers.

"Networking is an important job seeking strategy," says an official from the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment. Volunteer service can play an important role by helping the job seeker learn new skills, meet potential employers, retain strong work habits and work ethic, and provide a positive, psychological boost. Maintaining a positive attitude while looking for work is challenging for many job seekers. Performing community service, making a positive contribution to the community and helping others provides a real psychological benefit during times of great personal stress.

The Colorado Department of Labor and Employment and GCCS are working to enhance volunteer service information and volunteer connections for job seekers by providing information at workforce centers and on the GCCS and CDLE websites.

We encourage all programs to reach out to their local workforce centers and volunteer centers to improve connections between the unemployed job seekers and much needed volunteer community service opportunities.

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PLEASE CONTACT: JOVAN.MELTON@STATE.CO.US.



Toya M. Nelson
Executive Director, Governor's Commission on Community Service

New Statewide AmeriCorps VISTA Program

The Governor's Commission on Community Service in partnership with the Colorado Volunteer Center Network (CVCN) and the Colorado Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters (COVOAD), is proud to announce the launch of the GCCS/CVCN/COVOAD VISTA (GCCV) Program.



G C C S - C V C N - C O V O A D V I S T A P R O G R A M

The mission of the GCCV Program is to increase the outreach and capacity of the GCCS, the CVCN, and COVOAD in the areas of addressing poverty fighting and disaster relief for communities throughout Colorado. The GCCV Program will accomplish four primary goals by utilizing VISTA resources.

- First is to build the general capacity of the GCCS in order to promote volunteerism, address poverty needs, and assist in disaster relief through out the state.
- The second goal is to build the general capacity of CVCN members in order to address poverty and disaster relief needs as well as promote volunteerism in CVCN member's geographic location.
- The third objective is to create a network system to coordinate the most efficient and effective utilization of unaffiliated volunteers during major emergencies.
- The final goal is to create a database of federal, state, and local emergency resource agencies and institutions for faster and effective response.

The GCCV Program will consist of one VISTA Leader and nine VISTA Members The GCCS and its partners are currently accepting resumes for the VISTA Member Project assignments listed below.

- 1 VISTA Leader will work out of the GCCS office and assist in overseeing the operation and sustainability of the program, as well as serve as the program representative in the state's InterCorps Council;
- 1 VISTA member will work out of the GCCS office and develop a model for creating annual poverty fighting service projects in conjunction with MLK Day of Service, AmeriCorps Week, and Colorado Cares Day, with outreach as well to the unemployed and underemployed.
- 2 VISTA members will work out of the Metro Volunteers office and be tasked to assist the CVCN membership organizations in expanding the reach of the network to underserved areas of the state;
- 1 VISTA member will work out of the Weld County United Way office and assist in addressing poverty needs and disaster relief needs in Weld County;
- 1 VISTA member will work out of the Larimer County United Way office and assist in addressing poverty needs and disaster relief needs in Larimer County;
- 2 VISTA members will work out of the Adventist Community Service office and create/improve their poverty fighting systems;
- 2 VISTA members will work out of the Adventist Community Service office and be tasked to improve COVOAD's disaster response system, and create an online statewide resource database for COVOAD to be used during times of disasters.

Job descriptions and more information can be found at www.colorado.gov/gccs. Interested candidates should contact Jovan Melton at 303.866.6426 or jovan.melton@state.co.us.



GETTING THINGS DONE
MAY 9-16, 2009

AMERICORPSweek**2009**

The **Governor's Commission on Community Service**
is pleased to announce the third annual

AMERICORPS WEEK **May** **9-16, 2009**

AmeriCorps Week provides the perfect opportunity for AmeriCorps members, alums, grantees, program partners, and friends to shine a spotlight on the work done by members—and to motivate more Coloradoans to serve their communities. Be a part of this week dedicated to service and celebrate with thousands of AmeriCorps Members and Alums across Colorado. For more information visit:

www.colorado.gov/gccs



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